



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other world leaders at the launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance, in New Delhi on Saturday | P1

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INDIA, GULF, EUROPEAN UNION TO BE LINKED VIA RAIL, SHIPPING ROUTES

The corridor, outlined at G20, would help boost trade, deliver energy resources between India, Saudi, UAE, Jordan, Israel and European Union

CORRIDOR HAS CLEAN ENERGY MANDATE

The project will include shipping routes between India and Saudi Arabia, followed by a rail connection to the UAE, and potentially extending to Jordan. From Jordan, shipments would proceed by sea to Turkey and further inland via rail. The project is open to expansion with Greece in future. It's in a way a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative

CORRIDOR HAS CLEAN ENERGY MANDATE

■ The project will be funded by a collaborative initiative involving G7 nations aimed at funding infra projects in developing countries
■ It will expedite trade between India and Europe by 40%. It also aims to foster clean energy between Middle East and Europe via electricity cables and hydrogen pipelines, looking beyond transport

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NUMBER OF NATIONS THAT WILL FUND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

LANDMARK DELHI LEADERS DECLARATION ADOPTED

G20 unanimously approves joint communique • Bali declaration phraseology on Ukraine war dropped • Leans on UN charter on territorial integrity • Disapproves use of force, nuclear threat



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a session on 'One Family' during the two-day G20 Summit in New Delhi on Saturday | P1

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

IN a landmark decision, members of the G20 unanimously adopted the New Delhi Leaders Declaration on the opening day of their two-day summit here.

"History has been created with the adoption of New Delhi Leaders Declaration. United in consensus and spirit, we pledge to work collaboratively for a better, more prosperous and harmonious future. My gratitude to all fellow G20 members for their support and cooperation," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In the 83-paragraph joint communique, the Delhi declaration dropped words from last year's Bali Declaration that overtly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The sentence on "most members strongly condemned the war" was among those that were dropped or amended.

Instead, G20 member states agreed to lean on the tenets of the United Nations charter on territorial integrity and against the use of force. "In line with the UN Charter, all states must

refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state," the declaration read.

Besides, the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible, the declaration said. "Considerable time was spent — especially in the last few days — in regard to geopolitical issues, which really centered around the war in Ukraine. China, too, was very supportive of all outcomes," said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, after the declaration was adopted.

"Regarding the change in language on the Russia-Ukraine conflict from the Bali Declaration, Bali was Bali, New Delhi is Delhi. Many things have happened since the Bali Declaration," Jaishankar said.

"One should not have a theological view of this. The New Delhi Declaration responds to the concerns of today just like the Bali Declaration responded to the concerns of that time,"

he added.

To underscore the need for sustaining food and energy security, the G20 leaders called for the "cessation of military destruction or other attacks on relevant infrastructure".

Credit was also given to Turkey and the UN-brokered Istanbul agreements that facilitated the Black Sea initiative to transport foodgrains from war-torn Ukraine. The G20 member states called for their full, timely and effective implementation to ensure the immediate and unimpeded Ukraine. "This is necessary to meet the demand in developing and least developed countries, particularly those in Africa," the declaration read.

On the Black Sea grain transport initiative, Jaishankar said many discussions are going on. "It's natural there would be discussions going forward. When the green corridor was created at Bali, we also contributed in our own way at that time between Turkey and Russia," he pointed out.

PM identified as representing Bharat at the Group of 20 meet

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi was identified as the leader representing 'Bharat' at the G20 Summit here on Saturday. The name card in front of Modi as he addressed the gathering at the Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the Summit, said 'Bharat'.

It comes days after a big controversy over Draupadi Murmu identifying herself as President of Bharat instead of India in her dinner invitation to 170 G20 delegates. While the BJP hailed it, saying it signified the purging of the colonial nomenclature for the country, the Opposition panned it, claiming the government was doing it to create a differentiation from the IR INDIA bloc.

"India seems to have been replaced by Bharat at the government function. The government made a symbolic statement at the G20," an official remarked.

With the country name card before the prime minister showing 'Bharat', it could be indicative of a possible resolution on dropping the word 'India' from the Constitution, during the upcoming special Parliament session from September 18 to 22.

The resolution would not suffice for the name change. It would require a constitutional amendment, which would perhaps come later. The resolution would, however, create the political mood for the Bharat versus INDIA joust in the forthcoming elections.

Recently, the United Nations had weighed in on the name change controversy. It said if New Delhi were to complete all formalities and approach the UN for the name change of the country in the records, the UN will go by the book. A spokesperson for UN secretary general Antonio Guterres, who is attending the G20 meet, had cited Turkey's recent name change to Türkiye as an example.



Modi guarantee to African Union finally fructifies

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

IT was a red letter day for the African Union (AU) as Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally declared its inclusion as a permanent member of the G20 group.

"It is an honour to welcome the African Union to the G20 fold. India believes in a collaborative future and this step further solidifies our collective commitment to global progress. Here is to a brighter future for the Global South," Modi said.

Modi had in June mooted the idea of including the AU in the G20. Until now, the only African country in grouping was South Africa. It was in 2022 that the then AU President, Macky Sall (President of Senegal), expressed his desire for the union to be a part of the Group of 20. Modi had then guaranteed that it would be done.

Sall, who had met Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg last month, thanked Modi for fulfilling his guarantee.

Modi embraced the incumbent AU President, Azali Assoumani, and invited him to take his seat. Assoumani is the President of Comoros. "The G20 has just ratified, through the voice of Prime Minister Modi, the admission of the AU into its fold. On behalf of the African continent, I sincerely thank all the member countries of the G20 for this historic admission," Assoumani said.

AU is a grouping of 55 countries. Many African leaders had argued that Europe is represented by five countries as well as the European Union (EU), and the African Union merits similar representation. "We are delighted that the G20 has accepted the AU as a member," said South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

G20 DINNER: KHARGE TERMS NO INVITE TO HIM AS 'CHEAP POLITICS'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Kalaburagi

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, on Saturday broke his silence on not being invited to the G20 dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu and termed it "cheap politics".

Addressing reporters here, Kharge said the hosts should not have done politics on this matter.

On the special session of parliament convened by the

Siddu not to attend

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in Hubballi that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and it is wrong not to invite him to the G20 dinner. Though CMs of all states have been invited, those from Congress-ruled states have decided not to attend it as a mark of protest. He too will not attend the event.

Centre from September 18, Kharge said whenever the government calls a special

session, it should take the leaders of opposition parties into confidence and inform them about the agenda. This sudden decision of the Centre came as a surprise to all opposition parties.

On the proposal for "one nation-one election" and the eagerness of the Union government to introduce it, Kharge said it will be very difficult to introduce as many legislative assemblies get dissolved before the end of their term and some get dissolved by the parliament.

CONTINUED ON P5

BIGGEST MOROCCO QUAKE IN 120 YEARS KILLS OVER 1,000

6.8
magnitude of the quake that hit the North African nation on Friday night. It is the biggest to hit Morocco in 120 years

1,000+
People killed and counting, over 1,200 injured



Rescue workers search for survivors in a collapsed house in Moulay Ibrahim, Al Haouz province in Morocco on Saturday | AFP | P11

Naidu arrested by CID in ₹370 cr corruption case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

TDP chief and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday was arrested for his alleged role in the ₹370-crore Skill Development Corporation scam in Nandyal.

The alleged scam dates back to 2014-15 when Naidu was the chief minister of the divided Andhra Pradesh. APCID chief N Sanjay said at a press conference.

Naidu orchestrated the transfer of public funds from the government meant for setting up of skill development centres to private entities via shell companies, he claimed.

Key documents relating to the case have gone missing and the focus is now on locating the misappropriated funds, Sanjay added. Custodial interrogation of Naidu was necessary to trace the funds, he said.

"The entire conspiracy points at the role of Naidu who introduced the corporation and entered into MoUs with Siemens. Later, Naidu hatched plans to siphon off money using shell companies. His role has been established and he will be presented before the ACB special court in Vijayawada," Sanjay said.

As per the GO issued at the time, the AP Skill Development Corporation was to set up clusters for skilling the youth. P5

Hariprasad targets Siddu, says CM let down Dalits, OBCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

SENIOR Congress leader and MLC BK Hariprasad, who was denied a cabinet berth, on Saturday made a scathing but veiled attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah alleging that the latter has let down the Dalits, minorities and Other Backward Classes after assuming power.

However, he thanked Siddaramaiah for not inducting him into his cabinet, indirectly playing into the hands of the BJP which also did not want him to be a minister.



Hariprasad, indirectly referring to Siddaramaiah, alleged that the latter had met BJP patriarch LK Advani and dined with him to join the safe party for which BJP leaders M Venkaiah Naidu and Arvind Limbavali were witnesses. "I have not done anything like that for power," he quipped.

He sent a message to the Congress high command that if the party continues to ignore OBCs, Adivasis, Dalits and minorities by depending on Siddaramaiah, it will have to bear the brunt in the 2024 LS polls. P5

B'uru bandh tomorrow, schools declare holiday

Bengaluru: With the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations deciding to go ahead with the Bengaluru bandh on Monday, many schools have declared a holiday as owners of private school buses and vans have extended support to the strike. P3



Visa issues derail Afghan cricketers' plan

FIROZ MIRZA @ Colombo

TILL a few years ago, India used to be 'home' for the Afghanistan cricket team. They would practice and play matches in Dehradun and Greater Noida before the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow was made their 'new home'.

All that changed after the Taliban government came to power in Afghanistan two years ago. The consequence: The Afghan team that wanted to start preparing for the ODI World Cup in India early will not be able to do so due to visa issues.

After being knocked out of the Asia Cup since they lost to Sri Lanka, a select bunch of Af-

ghan players, including their support staff, wanted to have a pre-tournament camp in India. "If not the full team, the plan was to start training for at least six-seven players early. The Afghanistan Cricket Board held talks in this regards but it is learnt it won't happen due to visa issues," a source in the know of things told this daily.

As many as five Afghan players, including their star spinner Rashid Khan and wicket-keeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz, played for various franchises at the 2023 Indian Premier League.

The source, however, claimed that they got visas specifically for the tournament.

India used to be the adopted home for Afghanistan cricket team at least until the Covid pandemic disrupted all sporting activities. After the Taliban government came to power, the situation and the diplomatic relations have changed considerably. "As India was their adopted home, they had Indian visas but I was told that those visas were cancelled once the Taliban came to power. Now, they get visas on a tournament basis," added the source.

Afghanistan play two warm-up matches — one each versus South Africa and Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati on September 29 and October 3, respectively.